

The Worship of the Magi
Matthew 2:1-12

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I. After Christ's birth. Matthew 2:1-2

The Magi were wise men from the East (possibly Persia; modern day Iran) who came to _____ the Messiah; who was the Lord God, in the form of a baby and they presented Him gifts.

- Because of Daniel's high position and favor shown to him by the Lord; the Magi learned many things from Daniel and scripture about the One true _____ of Israel.

At times the Lord shows visible signs of His presence with bright appearances known as the _____ Glory of God. **Isaiah 6:1-5**

II. Herod's fear. Matthew 2:3-8

- The Herod in **Matthew 2** was known as Herod the _____.

The Lord purposely set these and many other prophecies into place so there would be no question that no other person in all of _____ could be the promised Savior of the world. **Gal. 4:4-5**

- King Herod wanted to be king, even though he learned through fulfilled _____, Jesus is the rightful King of Kings.

The Chief priests included the High Priest, and Herod changed the High Priest into a _____ appointment, rather than a spiritual calling.

- Simple _____ knowledge of the Lord and His Word does not save nor change any man.

III. Meeting Jesus. Matthew 2:9-12

- The shepherds found the baby at the manger but this scene with the Magi takes place anywhere from a _____ to two years after the birth of Christ.

It is amazing that nature doesn't doubt who Jesus is; but, with all of our intellect, some _____ still do. **Luke 19:38-40, Matthew 2:10**

- We must understand; worshipping the Lord with our _____ is more important than offering Jesus gifts! **Psalm 51:16**

What these Magi did should be the natural response for anyone who has a real life encounter with Jesus; fall down and _____ Him.

Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat came and _____ Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." NKJV

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. *What does worship look like in your life from Monday to Saturday? What must be true in your life for "worship" to take place? What disadvantage might there be in a view of worship that limits it to singing on Sunday morning?*

Exodus 19:10-11, Psalm 15, Psalm 24

2. *What might change in your heart and life if you began to view each moment as an opportunity to worship?*
3. Discuss these five ways we can prepare for worship: Pray that God will open our hearts to hear Him. Perceive what Jesus has done for us through His sacrifice on the cross. Praise Jesus for our salvation and for the freedom to worship when and where we choose. Present our tithes and offerings in response to God's grace on our lives. Prepare to share what we have learned with the world, teaching others to follow Jesus.
4. Remembering the price Jesus paid for us, *what do we learn about how great His love is for people still lost and hurting who live right across the street from us; how should that love drive our outreach?*

Luke 22:63-65, Matthew 20:19, 28:18-20, Acts 1:8

5. Discuss the Practical Application and discuss the following statement Tobin Perry wrote; explain how this fits into our everyday lives. *"You were designed for God's pleasure. The purpose of worship is the foundation of the other four purposes. Fellowship without the spirit of worship is just "hanging out." Discipleship without worship is nothing but a fruitless mental exercise. Ministry without worship is called "spinning your wheels." Evangelism without worship is a misplaced sales pitch."* (Tobin Perry)
John 4:23, Matthew 6:9-13, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:10-16